



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE  
284 STATE STREET  
41 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0041

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

ROLAND D. MARTIN  
COMMISSIONER

October 7, 2010

Dear Trapper:

Another trapping season is fast approaching, and I want to call your attention to several rule and season changes that will provide more opportunity to trap beaver and muskrats. Also, you will notice a Trapper Effort Report form included with this letter, please take the time to read it over and complete at the end of your trapping season. Information obtained from these reports will improve furbearer management in Maine. We appreciate your participation in this effort. Lastly, I want to make you aware of an error in the *State of Maine Hunting and Trapping 2009-2011 Laws & Rules* book. The trapping regulations for "killer-type (body-gripping) traps" in WMDs 1-11 found on page 45 in the book **are incorrect**. The Laws & Rules book omits several regulations that were implemented in December, 2008. The correct rule is provided below:

**Trappers in WMDs 1 through 11 are now required to set conibears (killing-type traps) either;**

- 1) completely under water or**
- 2) at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level and 4 feet away from any bank.**

**For all killer-type traps in Wildlife Management Districts 1 - 11 that are set on land, the pole or tree that the trap is affixed to must be;**

- 1) no greater than 4 inches wide at 4 feet above the ground**
- 2) at an angle of 45° or greater to the ground the entire distance from the ground to the trap.**
- 3) The area within 4 feet of the trap in all directions must be**
  - free of objects greater than 4 inches wide and**
  - free of slanted trees or poles between the ground and the height of the trap.**
- 4) If using a pole, the pole must be a natural section of tree which has not been planed or sawed to create a flat surface.**

The purpose of this rule is to ensure there are no objects that make it easier for a lynx to access the trap. Some exceptions are made for blind sets and sets under overhanging banks. Please see p. 45 (Item 18.d.2) of the *Hunting and Trapping 2009-2011 Laws and Rules* book for details.

Once again, the Department will be distributing the Trapper Information Booklet, also known as the Beaver Mailing, over the internet rather than mailing copies to every trapper. The Internet is a cost-effective tool for delivering information and allows MDIFW to use its resources more efficiently to manage wildlife. We are asking trappers that have access to the Internet, either at their local library or at home, to obtain their copy of the Trapper Information Booklet from the Department's webpage at [[http://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting\\_trapping/trapping/index.htm](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting_trapping/trapping/index.htm)]. If you do not have access to the Internet, please telephone the Wildlife Division at 287-5252 to request a printed copy of the Trapper Information Booklet and a copy will be mailed to you.



Rules and season changes for the 2010-2011 trapping season are underlined.

WMDs	2010-2011 Beaver Trapping Seasons	Season Dates
1, 2, 4, <u>5</u> .....		<u>October 17 – April 30</u>
3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 .....		<u>November 1 – April 30</u>
18, 19, 28 .....		<u>November 1 – April 15</u>
7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20 .....		<u>November 1 – March 31</u>
21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29		

**In WMDs; 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, and 10 there is no required setback distance from an active beaver dam.**

**In WMDs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 there is no required setback distance from a beaver house.**

**The general trapping season begins October 31 and ends December 31.**

**The early muskrat season in WMDs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 11 only, starts Sunday, October 24 and lasts until Saturday, October 30.**

**The early fox and coyote trapping season runs from Sunday, October 17 through Saturday, October 30 and is open statewide.**

After the close of the Regular Trapping Season, muskrats may still be trapped, but only in those areas that are open to beaver trapping. After March 31, in those Wildlife Management Districts open to beaver trapping, muskrat trapping is restricted to 1) killer-type traps and colony traps, which must be set to remain underwater at all time; or 2) foothold traps on “covered floats.” A covered float is defined as a float completely covered on the sides and top with hardware cloth, screen, or other similar material, having a mesh size no greater than 1/2 inch square. Access to the float will be limited to openings at the extreme ends of the float and the openings will not exceed 7 inches in height, or 14 inches in width. The use of exposed bait or visible attractor on covered floats is prohibited. Only one trap may be placed per float; the trap must be recessed 3 inches or greater from any opening in the cover; the trap chain or wire must be at least 3 feet long; and the maximum foothold trap size for covered floats sets will be No. 1 ½.

Remember, all skins must be tagged within 10 days of the end of the season for that species, and all bobcats taken by hunting must be tagged within 72 hours. Remember that only Department personnel, not tagging stations, can tag otter and bobcat. If you have difficulty getting fur tagged, please call the nearest regional office to make arrangements. Telephone numbers for regional offices and other Departmental offices are on page 2 of the 2009-2011 regulations booklet.

If you have questions regarding any of these regulations or the furbearer program in general, please feel free to contact your Regional Wildlife Biologist, or John DePue our Furbearer Biologist at our Bangor Office (941-4473). I wish you a good trapping season.

Sincerely,



Roland D. Martin  
Commissioner